

House Resolution 1635

By: Representatives Geisinger of the 48th, Lewis of the 15th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Murphy of the 23rd, Martin of the 47th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Southern States Energy Board to inventory and study the possibility of
2 exploring for natural gas in the coastal areas of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, exploration for natural gas in the State of Georgia's coastal areas is currently
4 prohibited under the federal ban on offshore oil and gas drilling, a moratorium that has been
5 in place since 1982; and

6 WHEREAS, the rising demand for natural gas as a clean-burning fuel source coupled with
7 a limited supply of natural gas will continue to boost heating and electricity costs, affecting
8 homeowners, small business owners, and a range of major industries; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to the Elba Island Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal, one of the
10 nation's key receiving points for natural gas; and

11 WHEREAS, the provision of an increased diversity of natural gas supplies to Georgia will
12 offset part of the need for supplies from the Gulf of Mexico and will help stabilize or lower
13 the price for natural gas in Georgia, helping to create a favorable energy market for Georgia
14 consumers; and

15 WHEREAS, a favorable energy market in Georgia will aid economic development, help
16 attract new jobs, and help to secure existing jobs; and

17 WHEREAS, the continental shelf off the coast of Georgia is about 80 miles wide with the
18 eastern boundary being marked by the Gulf Stream and is the widest in the South Atlantic
19 Bight, which extends from Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast is more than 100 miles in length and has two highly developed
2 ports in Brunswick and Savannah, which is home to the largest single-terminal container
3 facility of its kind on the Eastern and Gulf Coasts of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, in order to develop sound policies and proper development of our natural gas
5 resources, there is a need to locate and inventory the amount of natural gas in the coastal
6 areas of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, there is an additional need to investigate the possibility of exploration and
8 drilling for natural gas in the coastal areas of Georgia in the event that Congress decides to
9 remove the moratorium on offshore drilling.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
11 the members of this body request and strongly urge the Southern States Energy Board, in
12 partnership with selected industry, to conduct an offshore inventory of natural gas in the
13 coastal areas of Georgia, investigate the possibility of exploration and drilling for natural gas,
14 and report to the General Assembly as soon as such inventory can be made the results of such
15 inventory and study and any recommended legislation that will allow for the further
16 exploration, development, and drilling for natural gas in the coastal areas of Georgia.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
18 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia members of the
19 Southern States Energy Board and the Executive Director of the Southern States Energy
20 Board in Norcross, Georgia.